

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00127 181811Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 PM-05 NEA-10 OES-07 INR-10
/053 W

-----062655 181820Z /43

P 180950Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 857

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STADIS//////////

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SEND, ID, SNAMMXB, SD, SC
SUBJECT: SEALIFT MEDITERRANEAN GROUNDING
REF: JAKARTA 8075

1. CONSULATE REGRETS ITS OWN FAILURE TO NOTE OMISSION OF
DEPARTMENT ON MILITARY MESSAGES RE SHIP GROUNDING.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH NUTS AND BOLTS OF VARIOUS
ASSIST ACTIVITIES FOR SHIP. FIRST WAS THE EFFORT TO EVACUATE
SHIP CAPTAIN WILLIAM E. COONAN WHO SUFFERED HEART ATTACK DURING
GROUNDING, TO MEDAN. HE IS NOW OUT OF CRITICAL STAGE AND WILL
PROBABLY BE EVACUATED TO SINGAPORE ON APRIL 21. THE SHIPPING
AGENT HAS HANDLED NOTIFICATION OF FAMILY. WE HAVE ALSO HANDLED
VISA PROBLEMS WITH INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES AT WWBANG ISLAND,
THE CLOSEST INDONESIAN POINT TO SHIP, AS WELL AS FLIGHT
CLEARANCE DELCDRROBLEMS FOR A CHARTER AIRCRAFT FROM SINGAPORE
FOR SURVEYING OIL SPILLS.

3. THE INVESTIGATION TEAM WENT TO THE SHIP LAST WEEK FROM
PENANG,
MALAYSIA AND IT IS NOW BACK IN SINGAPORE. IN A TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION APRIL 17, CDR. MORINO OF THE TEAM, TOLD CONSULATE
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THAT SELCO COMPANY OF SINGAPORE IS DOING EXCELLENT JOB IN
HANDLING SHIP RESCUE AND SHIP SHOULD BE TOWED INTO SINGAPORE
AROUND APRIL 24. CDR. MORIN IS ARRIVING MEDAN APRIL 18 TO
OBTAIN AN INFORMAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE FACTS OF THE GROUNDING
FROM CAPTAIN COONAN WHO HAS AGREED TO GIVE IT.

4. CHARTER PLANE PILOT WHO DISCOVERED OIL SPILLS LAST WEEK

REPORTED 11 SPILLS, ALL OF THEM MOVING AWAY FROM COAST OF SUMATRA. HE RETURNED APRIL 16 TO DO FURTHER AIR SURVEY BUT CONSULATE HAS NOT HEARD RESULTS. CDR. MORIN HAS CONFIRMED THAT SPILLS SEILL MOVING NORTHWARD AND ADDED MOST ARE IN CATEGORY OF SHEEN NOW RATHER THAN SLICK EVIDENTLY AS RESULT CLEANUP MEASURES BY AELCO.

5. CONSULATE HAS HAD NO OFFICIAL OR PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT SHIP OR ITS GROUNDING.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO THE AMEMBASSY JAKARTA, AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE, AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI.
ISOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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